

never really broke me down. I enjoyed every minute of it and learned a lot.”

Cpl. Grace studied a variety of topics from weapons to Army history in preparation for the demanding process of facing the selection boards in anticipation of seeking advancement in his chosen endeavor. He first won the troop board, successfully navigated the squadron and brigade boards, ultimately culminating with his being named Soldier of the Year for the entire 1st Infantry Division.

As a result of his selection as Soldier of the Year, Cpl. Grace was chosen to provide personal security for the 1st Infantry Division Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston in Iraq.

Based on his extraordinary history in the military thus far, there should be no doubt that Cpl. Grace will continue to distinguish himself as he pursues Airborne school and Ranger school. After his sterling career in the military is completed, Cpl. Grace aspires to yet again continue to serve his country and particularly the great state of Texas as a Department of Public Safety Highway Patrolman, but has not ruled out the possibility of serving as long as possible in his career within the United States Army.

It is a distinct privilege to honor this remarkable soldier, to pay tribute to him for his being named Soldier of the Year from the entire 1st Infantry Division, and to congratulate him for his upcoming promotion to sergeant. His accomplishments are now recorded in this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LINDA CHIARENZA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the distinguished career and legacy of service of Linda Chiarenza, who was honored for her professional excellence as the Executive Director of the West Side and Black Rock-Riverside Neighborhood Housing Services at a Retirement Celebration on August 26, 2015.

In 1999, Linda was selected as the Executive Director of the West Side Neighborhood Housing Services (WSNHS) where she had worked as a Housing Specialist for 4 years. Linda immediately got to work rebuilding relationships with funding sources, expanding resources and engaging the WSNHS Board and staff to work collaboratively and creatively to lead this critically important non-profit agency to national recognition as part of the NeighborWorks network.

This year brought an Exemplary rating for WSNHS by NeighborWorks America, and it is deservedly proud of its designation as a NeighborWorks Green Organization.

From her first project on Shield Street to the revitalization of Connecticut Street to restoring a historic West Side property, Linda continually demonstrated dogged determination and an unshakeable commitment to neighborhood revitalization led by community stakeholders.

Linda's devotion of time, energy and resources to support the community was deservedly recognized by Business First with the 2009 Women of Influence Award and the 2007

and 2015 Woman of the Year Award by the West Side Business and Taxpayers Association. Her work with all levels of government earned her recognition as a New York State Woman of Distinction and the FBI Board of Directors Service Award.

During her time with West Side Neighborhood Housing Services, Linda accomplished significant milestones for the organization, including a merger with Black Rock-Riverside Neighborhood Housing Services, leading to a working partnership with West Side Neighborhood Housing Services sharing staff and services, and now serving as lead agency for housing rehab throughout the city of Buffalo. On June 10th of this year, West Side NHS and Black Rock NHS celebrated 35 years of service and another milestone of achievement was acknowledged on the recognition of its Executive Director who will leave a community better than when she arrived and clearly better prepared to continue to grow and thrive each and every day.

While Linda worked for the community, it is well known that her children and grandchildren are her world. We extend our best wishes and gratitude to her son John and daughter-in-law Maria, her daughter Nicole and son-in-law Jeff, and her seven grandchildren Vinny, Alexa, Johnny, Madeline, Jack, Jeff and Addison. I am especially grateful for her friendship, invaluable guidance and leadership ability that led to remarkable growth in neighborhood reinvestment, expanded services and stronger partnerships.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the career of Linda Chiarenza. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our congratulations on a well-earned retirement, and to celebrate the exemplary work she did to enrich the communities of Western New York.

RECOGNIZING THE GOKASHO, JAPAN “PEACE MEMORIAL MONUMENT COMMITTEE” AND A WWII ARMY AIR CORPS CREW THAT PERISHED NEAR TAKACHIHO, GOKASHO WHOSE LIVES THEY COMMEMORATE ANNUALLY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the “Peace Memorial Monument Committee” of the Gokasho region of Japan which, since 1995, has honored the lives of a World War II U.S. Army Air Corps crew that perished near the local town of Takachiho.

On August 30th, 1945, an American B-29 Bomber with twelve Army Air Corps crew members on board clipped the peak of the Oyaji mountain in Takachiho. The bomber was on a mission to the Allied POW detention center at Kaitanko of Miyawaka, Fukuoka to air drop relief supplies. The ensuing crash left no survivors. The crew members' bodies were retrieved by the U.S. military with the help of the citizens of Takachiho.

The names of the flight crew members that perished are Alfred Eiken of Missouri, Henry Baker of Tennessee, Jack Riggs of Kansas,

George Williamson of Pennsylvania, John Cornwell of Texas, Henry Frees of Illinois, Solomon Groner of New York, Walter Gustevson of Pennsylvania, Norman Henninger of Ohio, John Hodges, Jr. of Virginia, John Dangerfield of Utah, and Bob Miller of Utah.

In 1995, the “Peace Memorial Monument Committee,” which is organized by the people of the Gokasho region of Japan, constructed the Peace Memorial Monument to honor this Army Air Corps crew as well as that of a Japanese Army Fighter jet “Hayabusa” which crashed in a nearby mountain town. A memorial ceremony has been held each year since 1995 to commemorate these two tragedies and pray for continued peace and friendship between the United States and Japan. The ceremony is held on the Saturday in August nearest to August 30th, the date of the American crash.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to have the privilege of recognizing these fallen warriors, as well as the act of commitment to peace and friendship by the people of the Gokasho region that has flourished from this tragedy.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Gokasho “Peace Memorial Monument Committee,” and the twelve American Air Corps crew members whose lives they have not forgotten.

HONORING LORRAINE “LORRIE” LEWIS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lorrie Lewis, who passed away this August in Novato, California, at the age of 72. A lifelong advocate for people with developmental disabilities, Mrs. Lewis was defined by her radiant warmth, focused passion, and unrelenting selfless actions.

Calling Mrs. Lewis an inspiration does not capture her complete dedication to helping others. After managing a group home in the North Bay with her husband, Jim, the couple co-founded the Institute for Abundant Living (IAL) in 1995. Since then, the Institute has provided educational opportunities to people living with developmental disabilities, pushing them to achieve more academically and equipping them with skills to succeed personally and professionally.

I can attest to the hard work and enthusiasm of both staff and students through my firsthand observations when visiting the Institute for Abundant Living over the years. The organization plays an important role in the North Bay and has touched innumerable lives in its two decades of operation. Marin County was truly lucky to count Mrs. Lewis as an activist and neighbor.

Mrs. Lewis was active in her faith community and loved nothing more than being with her family. She will be missed far beyond those circles, however, as her unyielding efforts will continue to impact our community for years to come. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today and express our deepest condolences to Jim, her sons Andy and Kirt Lewis, and her grandchildren.